DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

Vol. XI No. 22 November 9th 1962 Price: 15 Pf, 5c, 3d.

GAG BLOW BOOMERANGS

At the end of October West German Chancellor Adenauer launched police action against a leading opposition magazine, hoping to gag it and scare other portions of the press into line.

One week later, the blow appeared to have boomeranged. Public opinion both inside West Germany and abroad reacted strongly against police strong-arm tactics, reminiscent of Gestapo days. Inside Adenauer's cabinet, differences of opinion led to a serious crisis which was still unresolved when GERMAN REPORT went to press.

Here is the story of how Chancellor Adenauer and Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss attempted to gag West Germany's leading newsmagazine:

West German police swooped on "Der Spiegel" in Hamburg in the night of October 26th, seizing the offices and arresting the publisher and main editors.

The official reason given for the raid was suspicion that top members of the magazine staff had had been guilty of "treason" in the form of publishing military secrets and also of bribery. Nobody in West Germany took these charges seriously. It was generally accepted that Chancellor Adenauer's Government had decided to strike a possibly crippling blow at a magazine which has often, and effectively, criticised Adenauer and his policies. "Der Spiegel" is by no means left-wing and often attacks the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union; but it is one of the very few West German periodicals which has dared to launch bitter attacks on the Government's atom-war policy and in particular on Defence Minister Strauss.

In the past twelve months, "Der Spiegel" has made life miserable for Strauss by publishing documented accounts of his part in various corruption scandals. Well-informed quarters in Bonn stated that Strauss had personally supervised police preparations for the blow at the magazine.

Many observers, including Adenauer supporters, were shocked by the brutality of the police action, whether the charges lodged were valid or not. About one dozen leading staff members were arrested at midnight or after; during night searches of their homes, children were dragged from their beds while former Gestapo-men searched the mattresses.

The editorial offices of "Der Spiegel" were seized and all files were impounded.

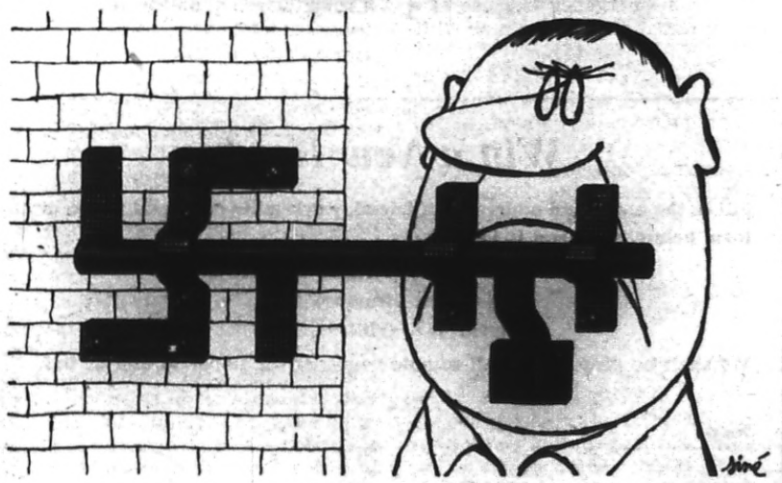
A week after the first police raid, five leading staff members, including publisher Rudolf Augstein, were still held in custody and a small army of police officials were still searching the big and complicated filing system maintained by the magazine.

Reliable sources in Bonn stated that the police were not only looking for evidence to back up the original charges of "treason", but were also looking for and impounding nazi documents held by "Der Spiegel" which contained data compromising many prominent West Germans.

Long-term occupation of the editorial offices was clearly designed to drive the magazine out of business, but it continued to appear on an emergency basis and with a larger circulation than before the raid.

An odd side-light was provided by the arrest in Spain of Conrad Ahlers, associate editor of the magazine. He was torn from his bed simultaneously with the police raids in Hamburg and elsewhere, then railroaded back into the hands of the West German police. The whole action was performed without any of the usual machinery of Interpol and extradition proceedings. After a week of contradictory explanations in Bonn, it was revealed that the "legal kidnapping" had been carried out by Franco's military in-

A WEST GERMAN COMMENT



(from the student socialist magazine "konkret", Hamburg)

REC'D DEC 7 - 1962

telligence service at the request of West German Military Intelligence. Reporting this collaboration, Associated Press described it as a carry-over from the cooperation between Hitler's "Legion Kondor" and Franco's "Blue Division".

The official charges of "treason" against the magazine's editors were based upon an article published on October 10th criticising the West German Defence Ministry and top generals. It was claimed that military secrets were revealed in the article, but spokesmen for "Der Spiegel" stated that they cleared all doubtful points with government officials before publication of the article.

The punitive police raid on "Der Spiegel" received especially great publicity because it was the first such action aimed at a "respectable" target. Left-wing publications and journalists have often been exposed to similar police action; biggest of these was the raid on August 17th 1956 when more than a dozen communist newspapers and magazines were closed by police.

Such attacks on the left-wing press have gone largely unnoticed by a public well-conditioned first by nazi and then by "Free World" anti-communist propaganda.

The attack on "Der Spiegel", however, a respected big-circulation magazine, fell into a different category and aroused wide public protest in West Germany and abroad.

On October 30th, the London "Times" said: "Night descents by the police, hour-long interrogation of journalists barred from access to the outside world, continued searches of the homes of the suspected, are bound to arouse memories of police action of a not too recent German past."

The Copenhagen "Aktuelt" of November 2nd commented: "The West German police authorities, who show occasionally such amazing lack of striking power when it is a question of finding their own war criminals, have shown once again how active they can be with other people."

After discussing the "Spiegel" arrests, the Paris "Combat" of November 1st wrote: "At the same moment the German Government has placed before the Bundestag the draft of a law which, in case of a conflict or serious threat, would give it special powers — the so-called emergency laws.

"With these new laws the Bonn Government will then possess an effective, some people even think an alarming instrument; they ask what democratic freedoms will then still remain: one can see how Bonn has dealt with the journalists of the "Spiegel", even without the laws."

Unions Oppose Emergency Laws

Representatives of the West German trade unions voted on October 24th to oppose emergency legislation advocated by the Bonn Government. The delegates, meeting at the Sixth Congress of the West German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB) in Hanover, rejected by a vote of 276-138 the executive motion supporting the proposed laws.

In a hot debate lasting many hours, the more militant trade unions of the metal workers, transport and general workers and chemical workers were victorious over the more conservative unions of the construction workers, the miners, and the postal and railroad employees.

The resolution which was finally passed stated that the DGB opposed "every additional legislative regulation of emergencies and emergency service, because such legislation was likely to restrict basic rights, especially the right of association, the right to strike, and the right to freedom of expression and was also likely to weaken democratic forces in the Federal Republic."

The proposed legislation has been advocated for years by the West German Government, but had just come up for final discussion in the Cabinet while the Trade Union Federation's Congress was in session. It comprises eight or more laws dealing with emergency powers for the Government, permitting it to commandeer vehicles and other private property, to press workers into service where and when the Government decides, to evacuate civilians from designated areas, and to restrict numerous rights and privileges. These measures could be taken whenever the Government declares an emergency because of a security threat "from within or without".

The Bonn Cabinet has since ignored the wishes of the 6,400,000 trade unionists and sent the proposed laws on to the Bundestag for approval.

In the Bundestag, a two-thirds majority is required to pass the legislation, thus making the votes of many Social Democratic members a necessity. The Social Democratic Party has decided to back the laws, while advocating a number of minor alterations and so-called safeguards. This is why the vote of the trade union congress, which is very close to the Social Democratic Party, came as a severe shock to that party's leaders as well as to the two parties in Chancellor Adenauer's coalition government. Most West German newspapers also attacked the trade unionists sharply for their decision.

During the debate at the congress, Otto Brenner, fiery chairman of the Metal Workers' Union, led the fight against the emergency laws. "The inheritance from the past should be a warning to all of us," he said, adding that the present Constitution contained enough provisions for all real emergencies. The laws were not necessary but were really only a method of the Federal Government to weaken the protections of the Constitution and to threaten democracy, Brenner stated.

Another metal worker delegate from Munich stated that the planned laws went even further than the nazis had gone in this sphere.

The leaders who favoured emergency legislation, led by Georg Leber of the construction workers, are those who are more closely linked with the heads of the Social Democratic Party and less opposed to policies of the present West German Government. They stressed that the trade unions would "lose popularity" if they opposed the emergency laws.

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
9 Krausen Strasse
Berlin W 8, GDR

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

BONN & THE BOMB

W. Germany's Drive for Atomic Weapons

The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic has submitted to all the main governments of the world a memorandum on the efforts now being made by the West German Government to obtain nuclear weapons.

Here are the main points of this important memorandum:

1. Preparations for Atomic Armament

On March 25th 1958 the Parliament of the German Federal Republic decided to equip the West German army with nuclear weapons. Since then the West German Government has done everything possible to achieve atomic armament of the Bundeswehr, which now has 300 launching ramps for nuclear weapons in its land and air forces.

West Germany also owns or manufactures both airplanes and ships capable of carrying atomic and rocket weapons.

When all licensed production has been completed and all purchases have been delivered, the West German Air Force will have 784 "Starfighter F-104 G" planes, a type suitable for dropping atom bombs.

On June 20th 1962 the 31st Fighter Squadron was commissioned, consisting of 42 "Starfighter F-104 G" planes. This is the first West German air force unit completely equipped with planes of this type. On May 24th 1961 the Council of the West European Union, pressed by the West German Federal Government, decided to permit West Germany to build warships of sizes which can be equipped with rocket and atomic weapons (6000 gross register tons). There are now four destroyers of this size under construction.

In 1960, Minister Strauss negotiated in the United States for the purchase of American "Tartar" rockets to equip large destroyers.

In June 1962, Minister Strauss bought "Terrier" rockets to complete the rocket arsenal of the West German navy.

In West Germany the military personnel necessary for an atom-equipped million-strong army has been assembled. Its entire structure and training is determined by preparation for atomic war. The Bundeswehr already has personnel which has had at least twelve months of thorough training on rocket weapons, including firing practice, in the United States, and which forms the cadre and training units needed for the establishment of all kinds of atom weapons units.

In summer 1961, Minister Strauss spent 480 million marks on "Pershing" rockets which are a combination of atomic war-heads and carrier weapons; they are to be delivered by the end of 1962. It was announced on June 16th 1962 that the first Bundeswehr commando to be trained to use "Pershing" rockets will be sent to the United States within a few weeks' time.

2. The Plan of an Integrated NATO Nuclear Force

Pursuing its policy of atomic armament, the West German Federal Republic is concentrating on getting atomic missiles which can be used with the existing launching equipment.

"The Bundeswehr must have equally effective armament as the allied shield forces...

"The soldiers of the Bundeswehr have a right to weapons which are at least equal to those of the adversary. Their responsibility to the troops entrusted to them compels the military commanders ... to demand the atomic armaments which are indispendable for the 'shield forces'."

Memorandum of top Bundeswehr generals, August 19th 1960

The military authorities in the Federal Republic had to reckon from the outset with the strongest resistance from opponents of atomic arms both in West Germany and in other countries, so they decided to resort to deception.

Early in September 1960 — shortly before the above memorandum of the Bundeswehr generals was published — Federal Chancellor Adenauer, former NATO Supreme Commander Norstad and the then NATO Secretary-General Spaak met at Lake Como.

Here they made the plan to establish an integrated NATO nuclear force.

"The New York Times" of November 23rd 1960 reported:

"The present effort to revolutionize NATO by giving it a private stockpile of American atomic warheads dates from an informal meeting at Lake Como last September 9th."

West German military circles were the main advocates of this plan. It aimed at gradually gaining possession of atomic weapons, which were declared to be a NATO force, that is at achieving atomic armament of West Germany through the backdoor of NATO.

A glimpse at NATO will confirm this. The United States, Great Britain and France already have their own atomic weapons. Other NATO countries, like Denmark, Norway, Belgium and Italy, have repeatedly stated that they do not want nuclear weapons. It is clear that the idea of a NATO Nuclear Force fits in only with the plans of the West German generals. It is they who are constantly demanding atomic weapons.

"In Europe, the Federal Ministry of Defence is the most fervent advocate of a NATO atomic power. At least optically, this is not considered a happy solution. Since Britain and France are already atomic powers, many people regard the establishment of a NATO atomic power as actually nothing else than a transfer of atomic weapons to the Federal Republic."

"Die Welt", Hamburg, February 26th 1962, reporting on a talk between President Kennedy and West German Ambassador Grewe.

"It makes the NATO allies' blood run cold when they believe they have detected behind the catch-phrase 'NATO — fourth atomic power' the trick by which atomic weapons are to be played into the hands of the Federal Republic."

"Die Welt", Hamburg, March 2nd 1962

With the United States and Great Britain, West Germany is one of the strongest military powers in NATO. Many leading NATO command posts are held by West German generals who were high-ranking officers under Hitler and took a decisive part in the attacks of fascist Germany on the peoples of Europe.

Former Hitler General Adolf Heusinger is Chairman of the NATO Standing Military Commission in Washington.

Ex-nazi General Hans Speidel has been commander of the NATO Land Forces, Central Europe since 1957. The strongest group of NATO Land Forces is subordinate to him. Speidel is the head of all Bonn generals in the European NATO staffs. These

include Major General Ernst Klasing, Deputy Chief of General Staff for Logistics and Administration of the NATO Land Forces, Central Europe.

In 1961 Rear Admiral Gerhard Wagner, once a naval strategist for Hitler, took over command of the NATO Naval Forces in Central Europe (Northern Section). With the establishment of the new NATO command "Baltic Sea Exits" (unified West German-Danish commando), all Danish naval forces are now under Wagner's command.

Air Force General Ernst Kusserow, who played a large part in preparing and carrying out the brutal attacks of the Nazi Luftwaffe against the countries of Europe, was in his capacity of Chief of the Air Defence Department on the Staff of the NATO Air Forces, Central Europe in command of the biggest manoeuvres of the NATO Air Force, in which nine countries took part in spring 1961.

This systematic penetration of the NATO commands clearly refutes the theory of some western politicians that it would be possible, by integrating the West German Bundeswehr into NATO, to exercise some kind of control over it. On the contrary, the West German militarists are making use of military "integration" to strengthen their influence in NATO and to develop it more and more into a spring-board for their aggressive plans.

The West German militarists plan to further strengthen their influence in NATO. Their calculation is simple: the country which has a decisive influence in the NATO command and brings in to NATO one of the greatest military forces will also have power over its nuclear weapons.

3. The West German Federal Government is increasing its efforts to carry out its atomic armament plans

After the Government of West Germany had again expressly declared the "NATO Nuclear Force" plan to be its official Government programme, it launched a large-scale campaign to get this plan carried out.

Threats were uttered in the press that if the "NATO Nuclear Power" plan were rejected the Federal Republic would produce nuclear weapons together with France.

The West German newspaper "Die Welt" wrote on June 9th, 1962:

"Is it not possible, in case of necessity, to build up a deterrent force through close cooperation between the hundred million technically highly developed French and West Germans? In principle this is surely possible."

"Without German help France can scarcely hope to develop its atomic weapons to their full value", the "Industriekurier", organ of the West German big industrialists, stated on June 23rd 1962.

Bonn's Hitler generals want to get atomic weapons at any price, even if their "NATO Atomic Power" and "European Atomic Power" projects do not succeed. Although the acquisition of strategic and tactical nuclear weapons through NATO seems to be a good solution to the West German military authorities, they are at the same time preparing to get nuclear weapons without NATO and the USA. The West German-French atom bomb threats thus have a real foundation, the dangerous nature of which is revealed by the following facts:

For years such West German arms trusts as AEG, IG Farben and DEGUSSA have been closely tied up with French nuclear arms trusts such as the Ateliers Patriot and Etablissements Kuhlmann. West German specialists work in French nuclear centres, in St Louis, Marcoule and Colomb-Bechar, for example. Officers of the Bundeswehr participated in the French nuclear tests in Reggane in the Sahara. Federal Chancellor Adenauer and President de Gaulle prepared a secret agreement within the framework of which Bonn, by continuing to finance French atomic armament, intends to gain possession of atomic weapons through a West German-French "European Atomic Power".

Since West Germany joined EURATOM it has been making intensive preparations for beginning its own production of atomic weapons. The accumulation of fissionable material and the kinds of fuel chosen prove this as well as an atom weapon production centre set up at Juelich (Eifel), where 1,300 specialists are working on the production of atomic weapons, and another centre in the Northern Eifel area, south of Metternich, between Zitterwald and the Ahrgebirge.

Militarist circles in the West German Federal Republic are thus exploring a number of different approaches to their goal of obtaining atomic weapons.

They are concentrating on the "NATO Nuclear Force" plan, and trying to force it through by means of threats to produce joint West German-French atom bombs and to start home production of nuclear weapons. At the same time there is a very real foundation to these threats.

Just before the NATO Council meeting in Athens in May 1962 Herr Strauss developed another variant of his "NATO Nuclear Force" plan, a minimum programme of "Nuclear Partnership", according to which:

the Federal Government is to be kept informed about atomic war-heads stationed on West German territory;

a guarantee is to be given that these war-heads cannot be removed, reduced in number and withdrawn in any other way from their intended use without the knowledge and consent by the Government;

the Federal Government shall have the right of co-decision on when atomic weapons are to be used.

The Federal Republic intended in this way to give the impression that its desire for atomic weapons had been modified, in order to cut resistance to its plans and in fact to take a step forward. The West German Government did in fact succeed in Athens in getting ahead with its so-called atomic "Minimum Programme". The programme of limited so-called "nuclear partnership" decided upon by the NATO Council on May 5th, 1962, corresponds in the main to Minister Strauss' demands and thus aids the efforts of the Government of the Federal Republic to gain atomic weapons.

The West German Government does not conceal the fact that it considers the decisions taken in Athens only as the first stage in "Nuclear Partnership".

"Thus the decisions made in Athens represent a minimum programme ... a point of departure for a discussion which will concern NATO for a long time to come."

Defence Minister Franz Josef Strauss, May 7th 1962

"In reality, the (West) Germans consider the atomic partnership outlined in Athens ... at the best as a beginning. That is why it is believed that there may be a rebirth of the idea of the fourth atomic power at the winter session of NATO."

Adelbert Weinstein, military columnist, in the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", May 7th 1962

Implementation of the "NATO atomic power" plan, now concealed behind the phrase "joint control" of nuclear weapons by the NATO states, is planned as the second stage of "Nuclear Partnership". In fact, the American Supreme Commander of

the NATO together with General Speidel would then exercise joint control over the so-called NATO Nuclear Force. In the third stage of "Nuclear Partnership", atom bombs are to be handed over directly to the Bundeswehr.

4. The Reasons for West German Federal Government Efforts to Obtain Atomic Weapons

Primarily, the West German Federal Government wants atomic weapons because it believes this would provide it with the military power necessary to carry out its far-reaching revanchist aims.

The Federal Government has made revanchism its state policy. Contrary to international law it officially demands restoration of the 1937 frontiers and refuses to recognise the existing German frontiers.

The German Federal Government's atomic revenge plans present a very grave danger to all nations, for it is the fundamental strategical concept of the Bonn generals and revanchists to unleash war by staging a military incident and then drag into it primarily the United States, but also the other NATO states.

"A European atomic force alone may never be strong enough to impress the Soviets sufficiently. But it would nevertheless fulfil its purpose as a deterrent, for it would be the lever to release American nuclear weapons. This would guarantee Western Europe full protection by America itself, even against Washington's will, and ensure that America's existence would be linked with that of Western Europe even against the wishes of certain circles in America."

"Stuttgarter Zeitung", West Germany, May 24th 1962

"If it comes to fighting in Germany, nine western countries would be involved."

Defence Minister Franz Josef Strauss, "Daily Mail", October 14th 1960

"Strauss considers that security is guaranteed only if the mechanism of atomic war would be touched off by any serious armed conflict at the zonal border (between the two German states, ed.)."

"Sender Freies Berlin", West Berlin radio station, August 15th 1962

"It has always been his (Strauss', ed.) idea to have something like a tripwire which, if cut, would involve the whole nuclear force of the United States in the conflict."

"Sueddeutsche Zeitung", Munich, December 6th 1961

It is an urgent necessity for the security of all states to prevent the atomic armament of West Germany. Both German states should renounce the acquisition, production and stationing on their territory of nuclear weapons as well as the right of co-decision on the use of these weapons and declare their readiness to conclude at once appropriate agreements on setting up an atom-free zone in Europe which would include the two German states. The two German states should agree on an arms stop and undertake to reduce their armed forces and armaments. The conclusion of a German peace treaty is becoming more and more urgent. It would do away with the vestiges of the last war and would stipulate renunciation of atomic weapons by both German states. These proposals by the German Democratic Republic are prompted by the will to peace and by common sense. The time has now come to carry them out.

W. Berlin Still a Menace

by Brigadier General Hugh B. Hester US Army, Retired

(The author of this article, who recently visited the German Democratic Republic, was Director of Procurement of Supplies in the Southwest Pacific 1942-45, and in charge of the Food and Agriculture Programme, US Zone of Germany, 1945-47)

The West Berlin Government is not free; it is not democratic. Democracy and freedom had nothing to do with its establishment, or with its continuance 110 miles inside the present German Democratic Republic. It was created by the British, French and U.S. Governments (especially the latter) primarily for use as a weapon against the Soviet bloc, and continues to be maintained for that purpose today..

President Eisenhower described the West Berlin situation, because of its location inside another state, as abnormal; Premier Khrushchov as absurd; and most others as at least anomalous. The West's continued insistence upon the present nonsensical status quo for West Berlin cannot fail in the end to produce disaster for Europe and probably for the world. No sovereign power can be expected to tolerate permanently a Trojan horse inside its territory.

For this reason, if no other, the United States Government should recognize the German Democratic Republic without further delay. It could then talk directly with the GDR instead of through Moscow or Bonn. The Soviet Government did not make this mistake. Now it can talk directly with Bonn and the GDR and short circuit Washington.

This improves Soviet communications with both. And improved communication throughout the Nation-State System is a **sine qua non** for the establishment of peace. If the United States had established normal relations with Mao Tse-tung, China might have remained out of the Korea War in 1950. If she maintained normal relations with all nations today the international situation would be less tense and more manageable.

The best solution of the Berlin problem would be the unification of a disarmed and neutralized Germany, outside NATO and the Warsaw pact; and the disengagement of the hostile military forces down the center of Europe along the lines of the Rapacki Plan (Rapacki is the Foreign Minister of Poland). The Soviet Government was in favour of both. Germany cannot be united inside NATO, with or without free elections, any more than it can be united inside the Warsaw Pact. Neither bloc has the military power to do so. Democracy, freedom and self-determination have nothing whatever to do with it, and the leaders of the West should stop the hypocritical pretense that they do.

Otherwise they would have permitted elections for the reunification of North and South Vietnam in 1956 as agreed at the Geneva conference, 1954.

Probably the best possible solution at the present time would be a West Berlin, detached and independent of either the East or West, but with freedom of travel, trade and cultural exchanges with all, and guaranteed by all. More is unlikely and less, I fear, will prove fatal.

Khrushchov has repeatedly offered, and still is offering, to negotiate a more rational future along these lines for West Berlin. "We will never know," according to George F. Kennan, "whether the Soviet leaders will go through an open door until we stop trying to push them through a closed one." Present U.S. policies on West Berlin would "push them through a closed one."

Bonn - Madrid Build Axis

By Colonel Enrique Lister — Spanish Republican Army

Relations between Bonn and Madrid are becoming closer all the time. The West German revanchists and the Spanish fascists are exchanging visits and mutual praise every day. West German Cabinet Minister von Merkatz, during a trip to Madrid recently, told the fascist camarilla: "Come to us, into the circle of good, old friends."

The friendship between the Bonn militarists and the Franco regime reaches back to the days when the Hitler interventionists helped Franco to destroy Republican Spain. In gratitude for this service Franco offered asylum to numerous SS men, Gestapo members, diplomats and other nazi criminals after the nazi Wehrmacht had been beaten in World War Two. In addition, contacts were established between the officers of the nazi "Condor Legion", which fought with Franco against the Spanish people in the 1936–1939 war, and officers of the Spanish "Blue Division", which had been beaten by Soviet soldiers on the German-Soviet front.

Soon Bonn bankers and businessmen, technical specialists and representatives of the Adenauer Government were coming more and more often to Madrid. The West German capitalists played a big part in constructing and exploiting big enterprises like the metallurgy plant in Avilés, and the copper smelting plants in Bilbao and Barcelona.

Then Bonn and Madrid signed an agreement on economic cooperation and technical aid.

At present there is an acceleration in the joint Spanish-West German production of weapons. One example is the activity of the fascist airplane constructor Messerschmitt. Formerly, he supplied the nazi Luftwaffe with fighter planes; today he is building them for Franco. Messerschmitt has constructed several types of modern aircraft for the firm "Hispano-Aviación S.A." in Seville. For this, Franco awarded him the "Spanish Great Cross for Services in the Field of Aviation". Dornier, another Hitler aircraft designer, opened an aircraft designing office in Madrid and created several types of aircraft for the Franco Government, types which are also being used in West Germany.

The West German specialists in Spain are attempting to develop new kinds of infantry weapons and artillery. Cannon-king Krupp, for example, received a contract to reconstruct and enlarge the metallurgical complex "Altos Hornos de Biscaya". The foreign press has reported that the Krupp firm has started to build a West German plant for producing rockets not far from Bilbao.

West German imperialism also has strong positions in the Spanish in-

SEVEN SEAS BOOKS

The English-language paperbacks*) – Written in English – Published in English – For readers of English! PLUS Translations into English of German Best-sellers!

... In the programme of Seven Seas ... a new approach to English-language publication is discernable ... Production ... impeccable ... One of the most interesting ventures in English-language publishing in eastern Europe.

LONDON TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Issue August 10 1962

Anthologies and Classics

SEA TALES OF THE SEVEN SEAS — Collection of famous yarns. Editor: H. Petersen
SONG TO GENERATIONS — British and American classics. Editor: Gertrude Gelbin
YOUR PERSONAL MARK TWAIN — Selections from the writings of the Great American
AMERICAN CENTURY — 34 tales about the U.S.A. Editor: Maxim Lieber

Translations from the German

CITY ON A HILL — Quartet of tales by Stephan Hermlin
NAKED AMONG WOLVES — The novel, praised the world over, by Bruno Apitz
IMMORTAL LIEDER — German poetry. Translated by E. Louise Mally

Topnotch Fiction and Nonfiction

THE GLASENAPP CASE — Murder in Prague! A novel by Stefan Heym
COME EAST, YOUNG MAN! — Soviet Travel Book by Wilfred G. Burchett
THE ADVENTURERS — Margot Heinemann's novel of post-war England
DOWN SECOND AVENUE — Autobiography of a South African by E. Mphahlele
SEVEN EMUS — An F. X. Herbert satire - a find in Australian novels

Write to the address listed below for information on where to buy Seven Seas Books

COMPLETE CATALOGUE ON REQUEST

SEVEN SEAS PUBLISHERS - Berlin W 8 - Glinkastrasse 13-15

*) Published in the German Democratic Republic

dustrial branches which produce munitions, military equipment and important strategic materials. The West German chemical concerns are allied with Spanish industrial magnates in organising the production of poison on Spanish soil.

The mining and processing of Spanish uranium has also been accelerated by the influx of West German capital. The West German firm "DEGUSSA" has already been given the concession to mine uranium and has built a processing plant. According to press reports the Bonn militarists intend to organise the production of atomic weapons on this basis.

The Franco regime, on its way towards complete collapse, is compelled to look for help from other countries to stay in power. It is getting this help from the countries of the aggressive NATO bloc, especially from the USA and West Germany.

In return for this support, Franco is giving these countries the right to build both armament factories and military bases on Spanish soil. The Spanish Minister Castiella, awarded the "Knight's Cross" by Hitler, stated that the Franco Government welcomes the construction of airports, artillery and tank testing grounds and Bundeswehr military dumps in Spain. He considered them "extremely favourable factors for the domestic situation in the country". This means that former Hitler generals will again be able to turn Spain into a military bridgehead endangering the security of the countries of Europe and Africa.

Construction is now being concentrated in the area between Almágro, Valdepenas, Manzanares and Daimiel (in Ciudad Real province). The technical personnel, the management and control agencies are all West German. Spaniards are only employed here as unskilled labourers. The area has been placed off limits. The Franco police have been ordered to watch the site so carefully that no-one can even approach it or see what is being built.

And what is happening in this area? Some foreign newspapers believe that a plant for producing atomic weapons is being constructed here; others think it will be a rocket launching site; and others again think that barracks are being built for the Bundeswehr and for a staff to run a whole series of future West German military bases in Spain. In any case, it is clearly going to be the largest military complex in Spain.

Spaniards see more and more clearly that their country is the victim of dictator Franco's military policy, a policy directed by the American militarists and, more and more, by the Bonn revanchists. This policy means poverty and misery for the Spanish people and a danger to their security.

But in Spain, as in all parts of the world, the forces of peace and progress, of freedom and national independence, are growing and becoming stronger. There is no doubt that before long these forces will put an end to Franco's anti-national policies, drive the Bundeswehr from Spanish soil, liquidate the foreign bases and follow a new policy — the policy of peaceful coexistence.

(condensed from "Krasnaya Zvesda", Moscow)

Trial to Outlaw Anti-Nazis

Court proceedings aimed at outlawing the Association of Nazi Persecutees (VVN) have been slated for November 29th by the West German Government in the **Bundesverwaltungsgericht** (Federal Administrative Court) in West Berlin.

The organisation, which comprises resistance fighters against Hitler, former inmates of prisons and concentration camps and other victims of the nazis, has been under severe attack since it launched campaigns against Hans Globke, Theodor Oberlaender and other former leaders in the nazi Third Reich holding top positions in the West German Government.

The first official call to outlaw the VVN came in October 1959 from former Interior Minister Gerhard Schroeder, who charged that the association was a "communist front" group. Gerhard Schroeder, who is now West Germany's Foreign Minister, was himself a member of the Nazi Party and a candidate member in Hitler's brown-shirted Storm Troopers.

First hearings in the move to ban the VVN were held in January 1962. At this time it was revealed that Dr Reuss, main government prosecutor in the proceedings against the anti-fascist group, had been an active nazi jurist. In one of his many articles for the legal weekly "Juristische Wochenschrift" (No. 12, 1936), Dr Reuss had written: "The Fuehrer has quite rightly declared, 'National Socialist Germany wants peace out of deep philosophical conviction'. These words from the Fuehrer must remove any doubt about Germany's desire for peace."

In answer to the charges against it, the VVN has pointed out that many of its members have indeed been communists, which was only natural in view of the fact that the Communist Party was the most active opponent of Hitler in Germany and also the party most numerously represented in Hitler's prison cells and concentration camps. But both the membership and the leadership of the VVN are actually made up of people with all shades of opinion. Among the members of the Presidium, for example, are:

Dr Josef Rossaint, vice-chairman of the Catholic Youth in pre-Hitler Germany, who was sentenced to 11 years hard labour in a famous trial in 1937;

Dr Willi Cronauer, a Social Democrat, who had been an active resistance fighter and, after the war, had held a leading post in the Bavarian Ministry of Culture;

Oskar Mueller, once a provincial Cabinet Minister delegated by the Communist Party, had used his key position amongst the prisoners in Dachau Concentration Camp to save the lives of countless inmates.

Herr Karrenbauer, a Social Democrat, who fought in the French underground.

Dr Martin Niemoeller, President of the Evangelical Church in Hesse and a famous Hitler opponent, has been a member of the VVN since it was formed in 1947.

Protests from anti-nazis in Germany and other countries influenced the West German Government to postpone the proceedings twice, but organisation leaders feel that the present all-out drive to stifle opposition in West Germany and the unfavourable atmosphere in West Berlin may prove disastrous to the VVN.

SS-Man Gets Post in Common Market

Professor Karl Hettlage, newly-appointed West German member of the European Coal and Steel Pool in the European Common Market, became a member of the black-shirted SS in 1936 and a captain at SS headquarters in September 1938, according to the Brussels resistance magazine "La Voix International de la Résistance" of October 25th.

Professor Hettlage, who was appointed above the protests of the West German trade unions which are no longer represented in the Pool, has stated that he did hold an officer's post in the SS when he was city treasurer of Berlin in 1936, but that this was an "honorary" rank given to high-ranking civil servants.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By Allen Mann

It may be difficult for foreign readers to understand why the seizure of the offices of "Der Spiegel" is so very important. It may help to explain that the magazine, which comes out every week with ever-growing dimensions (the last October issue was up to 134 pages), is a major factor in West German politics. Its half a million copies are snatched up every Monday by government leaders, intellectuals of all kinds, and especially by the students, many of whom swear by the magazine. Its popularity is due to its constant exposés of scandals in top West German circles and to its sharp wit, often subtle but always hard-hitting.

GERMAN REPORT has frequently quoted from "Der Spiegel" in the past, and "Der Spiegel" has occasionally quoted or mentioned us. They were not always so friendly about it, and we should point out again that the magazine is always attacking the GDR, quite often with below-belt blows cleverly blended with damaging humour.

But, despite its unfair attacks eastwards, there is something admirable in the courage and skill with which the magazine has hit at Strauss and company — a courage in the best traditions of American "muck-rakers" like Lincoln Steffens at the turn of the century.

In April 1961, the magazine said that Strauss was after two things — the chancellorship and atomic power — and would stop at nothing to get them. "The only question of importance now is whether Franz-Josef Strauss can continue on his march towards the job which he will hardly ever be made to vacate again except by war or revolt," it stated.

Then, last January, the newsmagazine hit again. It published countless documents to prove that Strauss had used his influence to get a huge US Army building contract for a fly-by-night contractor's firm. The contract would have netted Strauss himself about £1,000,000. This exposé kept West German political circles rocking all year; charges and counter-charges flew back and forth in what turned into a pitched battle between the Defence Minister and the magazine. The happiest people during this period were the cartoonists, for Strauss means "ostrich" and Spiegel means "mirror" in German, and this left countless possibilities for cartoon combinations.

While West Germans were shaking their heads at the fact that Strauss had not yet resigned, "Der Spiegel" published another exposé in September charging that huge contracts for tank treads and artillery shells had gone to men whose only connection with armaments was that they were distantly related or befriended with Defence Minister Strauss.

But Strauss was not idle. While "Der Spiegel" was attacking, he was pushing through the Bundestag a committee report white-washing his actions. But the report was rejected by the Bundestag, so Strauss put on even more of the pressure he is famous for. The second time, the committee report saying he had done nothing dishonest was finally accepted. The next day came the attack on "Der Spiegel". Searching for comparisons, a West German journalist said it was as if Scotland Yard's Special Branch should seize the premises of the "Guardian" in Manchester or if the American FBI locked up the Time-Life Building in New York and arrested Henry Luce.

•

I did not quite grasp some of the problems I face in East Berlin until I read the harrowing letter of a Mr A. Lane to the "Gravesend & Dartford Reporter" on October 19th. Mr Lane paints a dismal picture indeed. He writes, for example, that "most shop windows look packed with goods" but that "the people one sees thronging the shops are those holding a Party-members' card. Non-Party members are the ones who are suffering. There are no shopping days for them; no café crawling. What little is issued to them is at a distribution centre — if there's anything left for them. There is **no school** for their children."

Since unfortunately we have no Party-members' cards in our family, I have felt obliged to warn my wife against further visits to the butcher, the grocer, the self-service market and other shops she patronises and to start hunting for our distribution centre before everything disappears there. She has not found such a centre as yet, and I fear the search will be a wearisome job, but it will hardly compare with the task of discovering where our son disappears every morning with his school books.

Mr Lane has other things to report on his bold sallies across the frontier into East Berlin. "I saw ... people hiding behind their curtains ... I saw people looking about furtively, before they dare raise a half-hearted wave; I saw trams with one passenger (the conductor) ... and the people's police, continually riding up and down the roads to keep people from strolling too far."

The average reaction of the people to whom I showed or translated this letter was a weary chuckle, for most people are accustomed to tall tales of this sort. The one causing real indignation was the remark about the trams — "Mr Lane should travel on the tram with me during rush hour some day" was the typical response.

But maybe he visited East Berlin at 3 : 00 a. m. In the next paragraph, the letter confides: "I've seen the misery and the darkness of streets at night, and have been thankful to get back into West Berlin, where the magic of the lights makes you think you are in fairy land, and where old age is respected."

Most of this is too silly to comment on, except that it illustrates how visitors to East Berlin or the GDR often see what they want to see, or expect to see or, often enough, what West Berliners tell them they are going to see.

That partly explains why one visitor reports that "the shop windows are all empty", the next observer claims that the windows are full, but that the throngs inside are all "holders of Party-members' cards" and the third man asserts that "there are practically no shops at all". The only thing they usually agree on is that it was "frightful", and I think most of them were agreed on that before seeing the city at all. Prejudice and previous opinions can make even some honest people see the strangest things, and I fear that East Berlin, with all its faults, has been sinned against most in this respect.

Therefore, I should perhaps assure readers that we are able to stroll, wave, shop and respect old age wherever and as much as we like here. As for the "misery and darkness of the streets", one street after another is getting modern street lighting to replace the older lanterns, so that this problem is steadily being solved. I am unable to report about any similar campaigns against misery.

Change of Address

Our new address is:
GERMAN REPORT
9 Krausen Strasse
Berlin W 8
German Democratic Republic

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Krausenstrasse 9, Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.